

## DR. AKED QUITS FIFTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Resignation, Taking Effect April 9, Accepted Quickly and Without Comment by Trustees.

## FUTURE STILL IN DOUBT

Pastor Does Not Know Yet Whether He Will Accept San Francisco Call — Some Criticism of Attitude.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Frederic Aked resigned yesterday afternoon as pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church. He attended the adjourned meeting of the board of trustees, held in the office of Blair & Co., at No. 24 Broad street, and presented his resignation, to take effect on April 9.

Dr. Aked said he would announce his resignation formally to the congregation on Sunday morning. The board of trustees accepted Dr. Aked's resignation before 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and then the minister departed. It was not until 4:30 o'clock that Edgar L. Marston, chairman of the board of trustees, confirmed the report by issuing a brief typewritten statement. Mr. Marston's lips were sealed while he distributed the announcements to newspaper reporters.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., at No. 26 Broadway, told reporters that "Mr. Marston would do all the talking." It has been arranged for the resignation to take effect at the end of the fourth year of Dr. Aked's pastorate.

There were present at yesterday's meeting, in addition to Mr. Marston and Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., H. F. Corney, Charles D. Spencer, Harry Hubbard, Colgate Hoyt, Edward L. Ballard and Frank L. Froment. Judge Robert S. Lovett is on the Pacific Coast.

Asked last night whether he would accept the call to the pastorate of the First Congregational Church at San Francisco, Dr. Aked replied: "I cannot decide a question affecting my future in an hour. Up to the present moment I have not accepted the San Francisco call."

An officer of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church said last night that Dr. Aked had placed the board of trustees in the light of being at serious fault by his sermon of last Sunday morning, and that the trustees were of the opinion that it would be best for all concerned to postpone this opinion to prevail.

It is known, however, that the trustees consider Dr. Aked's methods with regard to the San Francisco call, both as to the manner in which it reached him and in which he flashed forth his ultimatum, to have been objectionable. It is said that before Dr. Aked went West he had received more than an intimation from San Francisco that the First Congregational Church would go far in an effort to get him. The trustees and deacons were not in the least surprised, therefore, to read telegraph accounts in the newspapers while Dr. Aked was in California that "an enthusiastic call" had been received by him. "The trustees made no move in the matter, and again were not surprised, although a few were sorry, when their pastor delivered his ultimatum to the congregation without first conferring with them. Dr. Aked did not arrive in New York from the West until Saturday morning."

It is the prevalent opinion among the officers of the church that the successor to Dr. Aked will be chosen from an American pulpit.

Dr. Aked was born in Nottingham, England, in 1864. When he was twelve years old his father, an auctioneer, died, and he received his education at a small commercial school in the town. He was forced to begin work at an early age, and for a time had no thought of the ministry. He was a clerk in a coal merchant's office, and then for two years was a sheriff's officer, in Derby. In 1890 he took up at Pembroke Chapel, Liverpool, the work that brought him into prominence. That congregation had originally been made up of the fashionable element. At the time of Dr. Aked's installation as pastor the church had become almost deserted. He appealed to the masses, the emphasis of his work was with the needy, and his success was immediate.

In 1907 the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church extended a call to the English preacher, and he readily accepted it. The congregation recently raised his salary from \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year. The salary named by the San Francisco congregation was \$10,000.

## NEW EXAMINATION ORDERED

Candidates for Court Attendant Complained of Unfairness.

At a meeting of the State Civil Service Commission yesterday afternoon in the offices of Commissioner Ludvigh, No. 31 Nassau street, it was decided that a re-examination for places on the eligible list for court attendants should be held on March 23. The examination held on February 24 was declared void. It was held in two sessions in the Grand Central Palace, and the same questions were asked in both, making it possible for those who took the examination in the afternoon to obtain the questions from those who were examined in the morning, with the result that they passed with higher marks.

## NUISANCE COMPLAINT RENEWED

Another Hearing in Central's Use of Tracks Along Riverside Drive.

On complaint of George L. Willson, the Public Service Commission reopened yesterday the proceeding against the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Company relative to alleged nuisances maintained by the company in the use of the tracks along the river opposite Riverside Drive. The hearing was formally deferred to be closed on February 25, and counsel to the company asked that the complaint be dismissed. No decision was made at the time.

George J. Shearn, counsel to Mr. Willson, maintained that the present hearing resolved itself into an application that the company be required to extend its electric system along the stretch of road in question. He said that it was absurd to suppose that the Board of Health had authority to order a change of motive power which was specifically given to the commission by the public service act. The hearing will be resumed on March 24.

## WHITMAN NEEDS MORE FACTS

Fosdick Hasn't Shown Crime in Condemnation Case, He Says.

District Attorney Whitman and Raymond D. Fosdick had a conference yesterday regarding Commissioner Fosdick's report to Mayor Gaynor alleging irregularities in the report of the condemnation commissioners for opening East 222d street between the Bronx River and 11th street, The Bronx.

Mr. Whitman said he had no evidence that a crime had been committed in connection with the proceedings, and that, unless he received additional facts warranting presentations to the grand jury, he would take no action.

Alterations in the minutes of the hearings were not forged unless made, as did not appear, after they had been used in connection with a motion for certification of the commission's report by the Supreme Court. Mr. Whitman said.

If further facts are obtained by Commissioners Fosdick to show that the minutes were so used, it will be necessary, in the judgment of the District Attorney, to prove that the minutes were altered by or under direction of a commissioner.

The stenographer who took the minutes of the proceedings is at present married and living in St. Louis. Commissioner Fosdick is expected to communicate with her and to submit whatever information she can supply.

No offence under the penal law, it was explained, was committed by Michael E. Devlin when he acted as one of the condamnation commissioners at the same time that he was drawing salary from the city as principal of Public School 8.

## GRESSLER CALLS IT A PLOT

Denies Charges of Wrongdoing by Himself or His Subordinates.

Specific denial of wrong doing on the part of himself or any of his subordinates, a number of whom are awaiting trial, was made by President Lawrence Gresser of Queens, in his defense before Commissioner Samuel H. Ordway, in the county courthouse, Long Island City, yesterday. In

denying a charge that he had wasted public money by carrying an unnecessary number of employees on the payroll, Mr. Gresser said that when he was first elected

to the Rev. Dr. Charles Frederic Aked resigned formally to the congregation on Sunday morning. The board of trustees, confirmed the report by issuing a brief typewritten statement. Mr. Marston's lips were sealed while he distributed the announcements to newspaper reporters.

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decide a question affecting my future in an hour. Up to the present moment I have not accepted the San Francisco call."

They said to me: "You are a Dutchman and well turn you out. But I have never yet shown a yellow streak, and I say now that I will never quit until I am removed."

He also said that he was being hampered in his efforts to give reform by men employed in the various departments who were working secretly against him.

"To-day if I want certain bookkeeping done I can't get it," he said. "I don't know now who these men are, but when I find them they will go out."

## PAVE WITH GRANITE CUBES

Borough President McAneny Thinks Asphalt a Failure.

Borough President McAneny admitted yesterday to the Fifth Avenue Association that, while New York City used vastly more "mastic" asphaltum for his pavements than any European city, yet asphalt, and particularly the "mastic" asphalt pavement, was a failure. The so-called "rock" asphalt that is used to some extent in Paris is far better than the kind used in New York, he said, but Mr. McAneny said he stuck to his opinion that the best pavement was the "closely cropped granite cubes." He said:

"We shall pave Fourth avenue from 8th street to 23d street with this sort of stone this present spring. If it works well there, I shall be prepared to substitute it for asphalt wherever the chance appears, and I believe that the best solution of our bad pavement problem will be found in the use of these blocks."

Ernest Flagg, the architect, who was present at the discussion on Fifth avenue's unfortunate condition, said that Liverpool had the heaviest traffic and the best pavements of any city in the world, and he described in detail the substantial materials used and the honest methods of laying the pavements.

Margaret O'Connor, a servant in the Eckert home, said General Eckert ate with a hearty appetite.

## ABIDE BY RATE DECISION

Eastern Trunk Lines Agree Not to Increase Freight Charges.

The Eastern trunk lines decided yesterday to abide by the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which recently denied the application of these roads for a horizontal increase of freight rates. This action was taken at a conference held at the offices of the Trunk Line Association.

The conferees were President William C. Brown, of the New York Central; President E. D. Underwood, of the Erie; President W. H. Truedale, of the Lackawanna; and E. Thomas, of the Lehigh Valley. President McAneny, of the Pennsylvania, was represented by several executive officers and by counsel.

Among the railroad men present were

Dele Cooke, general traffic manager of the Erie, and G. T. Brownell, vice-president and general counsel of the Erie; Vice-President Williams, of the Delaware & Hudson; Clyde Brown, counsel for the New York Central; Vice-President Harris, general counsel of the New York Central; Vice-President Daly, of the New York Central; W. S. Jenny, general counsel of the Jersey Central; B. D. Caldwell, vice-president of the Lackawanna, and T. N. Jarvis, vice-president of the Lehigh.

The letter says:

## AUTOISTS APPEAL TO DIX

Say New York City Streets Are Almost Impassable for Motors.

Albany, March 7.—Governor Dix to-day received a petition from the Automobile Club of America requesting him to help to relieve the congestion in the streets of New York. The petition declares that the streets are almost impassable for automobiles. The club has been opposing the recommendation of the Governor for the abatement of the State Highway Commission.

The letter says:

The streets of the city of New York have reached an intolerable condition of unevenness and appears to the local authorities have been futile. Inasmuch as the streets of the city of New York, according to decisions of the State Highway Commission, held in trust by the people of the entire state, who thus are entitled to have their interests considered, this subject is made of one direct appeal to you.

At the present time the letter is written by the chief executive of the state, representing the people of the entire state, hoping that some attention given to the subject by the state in its recommendations to the part of the local officials to bring about a repair of the streets, which this club and other citizens heretofore have been unable to accomplish.

## CURE FOR BIRDS AND MAN

Aviary Keeper's Prescription Restores a Park Laborer.

The same solution that cured a Central Park swan and a parrot in the menagerie of sorts house under the direction of Donald Burns, the keeper of the aviary, likewise for a Park Department laborer. The prescription was compiled by Burns, and it was the means also of saving a parrot a short time ago in a private collection in Fifth avenue, near the menagerie.

In a joking way some one asked Donald if he could cure sore throat in a human being as well as in a bird. The keeper said he could. Later the park laborer placed himself under the care of the "old Dr." Burns, as some of the keepers now call him, and within two days the laborer had recovered completely.

Burns is the physician to employees of the department, but he refuses to disclose the ingredients of the prescription.

The hearing will be resumed on March 24.

## ECKERT WILL DEFENCE IN

Principal Beneficiary Rebuts Unsound Mind Testimony.

## LAST MOVE IN BIG CONTEST

Director of Catholic Charities Here One of the Witnesses of the Day.

The defence by Thomas T. Eckert, Jr., of the will of his father, General Thomas T. Eckert, of which he is the principal beneficiary, was begun and finished yesterday before Surrogate Cohanlan, it being the last move in the contest brought by the testator's other son, James Clendenin Eckert.

Delaney Nicoll, counsel for Thomas T. Eckert, Jr., moved for the dismissal of the case. The Surrogate denied the motion, but reserved decision on the case.

For two weeks the contestants introduced evidence through relatives and other persons who knew General Eckert to show that he was not of sound mind in the last years of his life and had been under the influence of his son, Thomas T. Eckert, Jr.

The latter's counsel was content to make only a perfunctory rebuttal of the mass of testimony piled up in favor of upsetting the will, which disposes of property valued at about \$2,000,000. The most interesting testimony of the day was given by the Rev. D. McMahon, director of Catholic charities in this city, who had known General Eckert for fifteen years before his death in October. Father McMahon told of visiting the general on two occasions as late as August at the latter's summer home at Elberon, N. J., where he had luncheon and talked on a variety of subjects with the general. At these times, said the witness, General Eckert talked coherently and all of his actions were rational. General Eckert told Father McMahon that he had advised Andrew Carnegie to invest in Standard Oil, and that he regretted having given this advice because the stock had gone down.

"He said that he knew that he had given bad advice and he was sorry for it," said the witness.

A discussion of wireless telegraphy came up and General Eckert, who had been a telegrapher, later becoming president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, gave his expert view that wireless telegraphy would be wholly successful.

The general was told that a wireless message had been sent from an airship, and he said that he was the first man to send a message from a balloon. This was during the Civil War, when he told the postmaster of the Confederates from the balloon.

The Rhein, reported as 1,000 miles east of Sandy Hook at 7:10 a.m. yesterday, is expected to dock this forenoon.

The Oceanus, reported as 180 miles east of Sandy Hook at 7 a.m. yesterday, is expected to dock Friday forenoon.

The President Grant, reported as 260 miles east of Sandy Hook at noon yesterday, is expected to dock Saturday forenoon.

The Finland, reported as 290 miles east of Sandy Hook at noon yesterday, is expected to dock this forenoon.

Our Clerical Department reminds us that Easter will soon be here.

Have you thought of an Easter gift for your clergyman?

Or of new vestments for the Choir?

Then our Clerical Department may be of service, with our years of experience of the needs of the clergy and the demands of the rituals.

Easter garb for the clergy—clerical clothing, Latin and Anglican cassocks, albs, surplices, stoles, and pulpit gowns—

everything worn by the clergy of any church.

Easter garb for choristers—

cassocks in black and colors;

cottas—complete choir outfits.

Easter garb for altar boys—

cassocks and surplices.

As special embroidery and fitting are often needed for ecclesiastical robes, it is urged that orders for Easter use be placed as early as possible.

OUTGOING STEAMERS.

TO-DAY.

Vessel From Line Vessel

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

Sunrise 6:25, sunset 6:50; moon sets 1:55, moon's age 8.

HIGH WATER.

High water 1:15, 1:56

Governor's Island 1:23, 1:56

Bell Gate 1:33, 1:56

Wireless Reports.

The Purse, reported as 222 miles east of Sandy Hook at 7:10 a.m. yesterday, is expected to dock this forenoon.

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